

PROBING CRUELTIES TO U. S. SOLDIERS

House Republicans Are Tired of
Apologies of Democratic
Bureaucrats.

TO QUIZ ENLISTED MEN

Representative Ballinger says Cruel-
ties Approach in Severity "Bar-
barities of Middle Ages."

World's Washington Bureau,
Telegraph Building.

WASHINGTON, July 15.—The House committee charged with the investigation of the conduct of the war is continuing its examination of the allegations of cruelties practiced by the American forces, particularly in France, in comparison with German methods.

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tempts of the Democrats to make out
of nothing something over. They
are going to bring enlisted men here
and test the truth of the matter, no
matter who is to blame.

Mr. Ballinger, chairman of the committee, told the conference of the war
that he had the evidence of the
allegations of cruelties practiced by the
American forces, particularly in France,

described by Representative
Berkman of Massachusetts, as ap-
pearing in severity "the horrors
of the middle ages."

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tempts of the Democrats to make out
of nothing something over. They
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and test the truth of the matter, no
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Mr. Berkman's letter was read in
to the house by Mr. Ballinger, who asserted that he had received affidavits from many soldiers who
stated what Mr. Berkman al-
leged. For a number of years Mr.
Ballinger has been secretary to the late
General Boutwell. At present he is
connected with the International Min-
ing company, with offices in New

York.

Believes Charges Are True.
"I hold in my hand a letter which I
have received from Mr. Berkman of New York City," said Mr. Ballinger
to the house, displaying the letter with its many citations of alleged in-
justices. "I have met Mr. Berkman
many, many times and I can assure you
that he is a man of honor and his
statements are true. He has talked with
men who served with the army in France,
who state that the conditions de-
scribed were 'horrors of common
knowledge to the American soldiers
in France, and I have become con-
vinced that there is truth in these
reports."

"Briefly, it is charged that our sol-
diers, who went to France imbued
with patriotism, the best blood in our
land, who entered across the sea in
fright despatch, found themselves of
despair worse than that for which
we are going to punish the Kaiser.
Assertions are made that our own
loved ones were beaten, clutched and
starved—all in the name of democ-
racy; that men caught in the web
of the American military police system
of Paris were placed in prison
cells, wider than those of Anderson-
ville; that our soldiers, some of whom
were dishonorably discharged, because
of suffering in hospitals, were
thrown into prison without trial and
without charges ever being preferred
against them for such offenses as

failure to have proper military tra-
vel orders in their possession. Evidence
is produced showing that men
were hit and clutched until they died
and fainted, and that one man even
perished death in the treatment to
which he was subjected, and took
his own life.

The only gasp of such tales of
barbarism. It takes me back to the
horrors of the middle ages and the
cruelties of the people of that time.
For instance, just now some men
captured in the field of battle by the
Germans, at a time when blood
was free, were treated with living
kindness in comparison.

Suicide of beaten Soldier.

"Let me at least quote to the
house, Mr. Speaker, three short para-
graphs of this letter sent me by
Sergeant Beckmann. He writes:

"One horrible incident was the
case of a soldier who could not speak
English very well, much less under-
stand it thoroughly. He was struck
and beaten for no wrongdoing in a
miserable condition. He cried: 'This
is terrible.' 'Well, show us how
terrible it is,' replied those who were
beating him, and he was taken before
the personnel officer and two
sergeants. A Lieutenant beat him
again and put him in a cell on bread
and water. Evidently they consid-
ered this too good for him, so he
was placed in a pup tent for solitary
confinement."

During the afternoon of this
same incident, and when this
man went over and tore his coat down
so he was lying on his back with his
throat cut. It was about 3:30 p.m.
before the ambulance arrived and the
sergeants took him off to the hospital.
And thousands of miles across the
sea and land, perhaps there awaited
a gray-haired mother, who served
her son in the war, the other hundreds
of thousands of good things the
war department that general per-
son had reported her son among
those who died from other causes.

As the chosen representatives of
100,000,000 free people, we cannot
sit idle while stories of torture such
as these are told. They must be
proven false or true, and if true
then the officers and men responsible
for such conditions, either directly or
indirectly to blame, must suffer a
proper punishment. Democrat and
republican must stand together to in-
stitute such reforms in our army and
our war department that in the fu-
ture, if it is necessary, we can send
our sons and loved ones away
fight for freedom, with the
assurance that each soldier will be
treated as a free man until he is
found guilty by a proper court for
an infraction of military law."

After describing the military
prison and the alleged inhuman con-
duct of the guards, Mr. Berkman in
his letter gives many instances of al-
leged cruelties. One typical state-
ment follows:

Prisoners Put in Stables.

"Farm No. 1, which can be
seen Company K, 15th infantry, one of
the 40th division. Lieutenant Smith
was the officer in charge. This lieu-
tenant was known as 'Hard-Bitten
Smith'; in fact he boasted of it.
He beat the men when giving special ex-
hortations of his criminal brutality."

"Farm No. 1 was a French farm
outside of Paris used by the American
army as a prison camp. There
were many stables, three-quarters
of which were used by the men of
Company K, which numbered about
250 men; the other quarter of the
stables was used for the prisoners,
who sometimes numbered as high as
1,200 men. Those men were quar-

One Reason for Popularity of Summer Beaches



were taken, two at a time, to an upper floor of the building used by the company commander as his headquarters. Here they were thoroughly searched by two sergeants in the presence of an officer. If the personal belongings or money of the men had been returned to them before they left the Paris prison they were taken away from them later. As the men sat in places in the center of the room, the men's belongings were taken from them before they were tossed into this box. Lieutenant Hepstein sat beside the box and immediately took charge of anything that was valuable. Money was thrown into this box and there was no way of identifying to whom it belonged. In some cases the men were given receipts for their money, but in others they were not. It all seemed to depend upon the whim of the men in charge."

"It was a common thing to see a sergeant knock a man down or beat him up on the slightest provocation. One morning as the men fell in line for breakfast one man was slightly out of line. Sergeant Hall went up to him and punched him in the face six times."

"One morning about 9 o'clock four
men were taken into one of the stalls
in the stable and beaten with blackjacks
for 20 minutes. When they came out
they were bleeding from their faces and they were in a
horrible condition. Lieutenant Hepstein, Sergeant Hall, a duly sergeant
of company K, 15th infantry, together
with three general prisoners,
entered the stall with these four
men who were beaten up. A guard
with a rifle on his shoulder stood
at the door. After the men came out
Lieutenant Hepstein and another
stood in the door examining their
fists. The men were taken over to
wash on the blood and the men were
told to wash it off. It was then
discovered that the other guard
had beaten him in the ear from behind
and kicked him in line with the other
three. These men were put on bread
and water."

"The incidents I have related in
this letter I can substantiate in an
official report from the inspector
general of the army corps in general
headquarters, American expeditionary
forces, and represent only a few
of the atrocities committed at these
places."

"Newly returned soldiers, whom I
know personally and on whom I
may inform you, that conditions I
have described still exist and that
there seems to have been no im-
provement."

Bathing Suit and Cap of Lace.
If you would have the newest and
most startling bathing suit hunt up
grandmother's old black lace shawl,
get the pattern and make one like
this. It has not yet sold the most
bulky and individual, say nothing
of most primitive bathing suit
ever discovered on a public beach.
It is made entirely of black lace with
an underbody of heavy white satin.
There is a butterfly cap to corre-
spond and the rolled down stockings
have a lace inset to match.

**Farm No. 1, which can be seen by
Company K, 15th infantry, one of
the 40th division. Lieutenant Smith
was the officer in charge. This lieu-
tenant was known as 'Hard-Bitten
Smith'; in fact he boasted of it.
He beat the men when giving special ex-
hortations of his criminal brutality."**

"When soldiers arrived at the
farm from the Paris prison they

Be Sure of Our Location.
We Are at
8 West Third Street,
Opposite Rialto Theater

The Advance Shop
"The Store That Always Please"

We are out of the high
rent district and save you
from 25% to 50% on
every garment we sell.

Ground Floor Robinson Arcade

Gigantic Clearance Sale

Women's and Misses' Summer Apparel
Sacrificed Regardless of Cost or Loss

Clean-Up of Wash Dresses

\$12.95 Wash Dresses, now at.... \$ 8.95
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\$25.00 Wash Dresses, now at.... \$15.00
\$30.00 Wash Dresses, now at.... \$20.00

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Reg. \$20.00 Silk Dresses, now at.... \$12.95
Reg. \$30.00 Silk Dresses, now at.... \$15.00
Reg. \$35.00 Silk Dresses, now at.... \$20.00
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\$4 and \$5 Georgette Waists

Beaded and embroidered waists in
white, flesh, pearl and sunset. Sev-
eral styles to select from. Special...

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\$3 and \$4 Organdy Waists

Splendid waists of good quality organ-
dyne, in flesh, rose, blue and lavender.
A special value for tomorrow.....

1.95

Clean-up of Wash Skirts.

GOV. ALLEN ASKS WHEAT GRADE CHANGES BE MADE
\$2.95

Worth \$5.00 and \$6.00.

\$7 and \$8 Georgette Waists.

White, flesh, rose, blue, maize, peach
and sunset. Special....

\$5.00

All Silk Petticoats Greatly Reduced.

All Silk and Cloth Skirts Now
1-4 and 1-3 off.

Clean-up of Wash Skirts.

\$5.00

Worth \$7.00 and \$8.00.

Only a limited quantity of
these fine skirts. Made of
gaberdine, P. K. and nov-
elty materials. While they
last these go at \$2.95.

All Suits, Capes, Coats, Etc.

Now at 1/2 Price.

Men's Undershirts; \$1.25 grade;

39c not over 12 to a customer.

Muslin; as good as Hope;

12½c per yard.

Boys' Suits;

special for

Men's B. V. D. style Union Suits;

59c special, for

Men's 25c Hose; 12 pairs

for

Ladies' Waists; the \$1 grade,

25c for

Ladies' Skirts; \$5 and \$10

values, for

Ladies' Corsets; small

sizes

Youths' Suits; you cannot buy

the cloth for

100 House Dresses and Kimonos; worth \$2

to \$2.50. Come and take your

choice for

71c

Men's Khaki Tie; 33-1-3c,

or three for

Boys' Baldriggan and Athletic

Union Suits

1,000 men's Straw Hats, 98c.

\$2.98 \$1.98 to

Men's Linen Suits

at

1,000 Linen Coats

, \$5.00 values, 98c; 1,000 Linen Skirts, \$2.00 and \$3.00 values, at 98c; 500 pairs of Misses' Shoes, ranging in size from 8 to 2½, at \$1.89; one table of

Shoes, 98c; Ladies' Waists, 19c;

Hope Muslin Remnants, 19½c; Genuine Hope Muslin, 22c per yard; Bathing Slippers, 25c; 1,000 pieces of Tinware, 9c; 1,000 dishes,

values 40c and 50c, at 12½c;

five barrels of Glassware, 5c; 1,000 dresses, 73c; 1,000 pieces of Millinery worth to \$10.00, at 25c; white and fancy oilcloth, 50c grade, 29c;

Boys' and Girls' Bathing Suits, 25c;

Silk Garters, 5c. With every \$1.50 purchase we give you a FREE ticket to any picture show in the city.

Men's Night Shirts,

each

Heavy Plaid Blankets

for

1,000 dozen Wash Ties;

choice

Heavy leather-lined Gloves,

pair

One table of Baby Shoes;

pair

Ladies' House Slippers;